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CLAIMS

1. through 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A one-piece vehicle door beam comprising:

an elongated beam portion having opposite ends, said beam portion including a laterall middle portion and first and second lateral portions extending therefrom, each said lateral portion including a perpendicular portion perpendicular to said middle portion and a transition portion curving continuously from said middle portion to said perpendicular portion, said first and second lateral portions terminating in first and second lateral edges, said first lateral portion shaped so that said first lateral edge abuts said beam middle portion, said second lateral portion shaped so that said second lateral edge abuts said beam middle portion, said perpendicular portions engaging each other, said first and second lateral edges being connected along their lengths to said beam middle portion; and

first and second brackets unitary with and extending from said beam portion, said brackets portions adapted for attachment to a vehicle door.

15. (Original) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 14 wherein said first and second lateral portions are of similar size and shape.

16. (Original) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 14 wherein said first and second lateral portions are connected to one another along a line separate from said first and second lateral edges.

17. (Previously presented) A vehicle door beam comprising:

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an elongated beam portion having opposite ends, said beam portion including a first lateral portion having a first lateral edge abutting said beam portion, said first lateral edge welded along its longitudinal extent to said beam portion to form at least part of a first closed configuration, said beam portion further including a second lateral portion having a second lateral edge abutting said beam portion, said second lateral edge welded along its longitudinal extent to said beam portion to form at least part of a second closed configuration; and

a pair of bracket portions extending from the opposite ends of said elongated beam portion and adapted for attachment to a vehicle door.

18. (Original) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 17 wherein said beam portion and said bracket portions are parts of a single unitary piece.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 18 wherein:

said beam portion includes a lateral center portion; and

said first and second lateral edges abut said piece at said lateral center portion.

21. (Previously presented) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 18 wherein said first and second lateral portions are connected to one another along a line separate from said first and second lateral edges.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 17 wherein comprising:

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said beam portion includes a web and a leg, said leg having first and second leg edges, said first leg edge connected to said web, said leg forming part of both of said first and second closed configurations.

24. (Withdrawn) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 23 wherein said first and second lateral edges are connected to said second leg edge.

25. (Withdrawn) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 23 wherein said first lateral edge is connected to said second leg edge.

26. (Withdrawn) A vehicle door beam as defined in claim 17 wherein said first and second lateral portions are separate pieces connected to one another.